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Income Fund, LP

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

US CAPITAL/NOBLE CAPITAL TEXAS  
REAL ESTATE INCOME FUND, LP,

Plaintiff,

V.

15 JADON NEWMAN, CHRIS RAGLAND,  
16 ROMNEY NAVARRO, GRADY COLLINS,  
17 JADON NEWMAN (as trustee for JFN  
GRANTOR TRUST), HANNAH HEERLEIN  
(as trustee for N.A. NEWMAN HERITAGE  
TRUST), HANNAH HEERLEIN (as trustee  
for K.A. NEWMAN HERITAGE TRUST),  
18 RAGLAND HOLDINGS, LLC, NOBLE  
19 CAPITAL GROUP, LLC, NOBLE CAPITAL  
FUND MANAGEMENT, LLC, NOBLE  
20 CAPITAL PROPERTIES, LLC, NOBLE  
CAPITAL SERVICING, LLC, NOBLE  
21 CAPITAL REAL ESTATE, LLC (f/k/a  
EMERGE REAL ESTATE GROUP, LLC),  
22 STREAMLINE FUNDING GROUP, LLC,  
23 NOBLE CAPITAL REO, LLC, NOBLE  
24 CAPITAL INCOME FUND II, LLC, NOBLE  
CAPITAL INCOME FUND III, LLC and  
DOES 1-50.

Defendant.

Case No. 3:19-cv-02750-WHO

## **SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR:**

- (1) CIVIL RICO (18 U.S.C. § 1962(c));
- (2) CIVIL RICO (18 U.S.C. § 1962(d));
- (3) FRAUD;
- (4) FALSE ADVERTISING (15 U.S.C. § 1125);
- (5) UNFAIR COMPETITION (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq. and 17500 *et seq.*);
- (6) (the MASA);
- (7) BREACH OF CONTRACT (the MOUs);
- (8) CONVERSION (Noble Capital Properties, Noble Capital Fund Management, and Noble Capital Servicing);
- (9) CONVERSION (All Defendants);
- (10) UNJUST ENRICHMENT;
- (11) INTENTIONAL INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS; and
- (12) ACCOUNTING

## **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1 Plaintiff, US CAPITAL/NOBLE CAPITAL TEXAS REAL ESTATE INCOME FUND,  
 2 LP (the “Fund”), by and through the undersigned counsel hereby files and serves this Complaint  
 3 for Civil Violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, Fraud, False  
 4 Advertising, Unfair Competition, Breach of Contract, Conversion, Unjust Enrichment, Intentional  
 5 Interference with Contractual Relations, and an Accounting, against JADON NEWMAN  
 6 (“Newman”), CHRIS RAGLAND (“Ragland”), ROMNEY NAVARRO (“Navarro”), GRADY  
 7 COLLINS (“Collins”), JADON NEWMAN as trustee for JFN GRANTOR TRUST (“JFN Trust”),  
 8 HANNAH HEERLEIN as trustee for N.A. NEWMAN HERITAGE TRUST (“NA Newman  
 9 Trust”) and K.A. NEWMAN HERITAGE TRUST (“KA Newman Trust”), RAGLAND  
 10 HOLDINGS, LLC, (“Ragland Holdings”), NOBLE CAPITAL GROUP, LLC (“Noble Capital  
 11 Group”), NOBLE CAPITAL FUND MANAGEMENT, LLC (“Noble Capital Fund  
 12 Management”), NOBLE CAPITAL PROPERTIES, LLC (“Noble Capital Properties”), NOBLE  
 13 CAPITAL SERVICING, LLC (“Noble Capital Servicing”), NOBLE CAPITAL REAL ESTATE,  
 14 LLC f/k/a EMERGE REAL ESTATE GROUP, LLC (“Noble Capital Real Estate”),  
 15 STREAMLINE FUNDING GROUP, LLC (“Streamline”), NOBLE CAPITAL REO, LLC  
 16 (“Noble Capital REO”), NOBLE CAPITAL INCOME FUND II, LLC (“Income Fund II”),  
 17 NOBLE CAPITAL INCOME FUND III, LLC (“Income Fund III”), and DOES 1-50 (collectively  
 18 “Defendants”).

#### 19 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

20 1. This Court possesses federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331  
 21 with respect to claims asserted under 15 U.S.C. § 1125 and 18 U.S.C. § 1962.

22 2. This Court possesses supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1337 with  
 23 respect to the remaining claims asserted herein.

24 3. Personal jurisdiction is proper as to Defendant Newman because: (1) Defendant  
 25 Newman purposefully availed himself of the benefits of the State of California; (2) the  
 26 controversy is related to and arises out of Defendant Newman’s contacts with the State of  
 27 California; and (3) the assertion of personal jurisdiction comports with fair play and substantial  
 28 justice.

1       4.     Personal jurisdiction is proper as to Defendant Ragland because: (1) Defendant  
2 Ragland purposefully availed himself of the benefits of the State of California; (2) the controversy  
3 is related to and arises out of Defendant Ragland's contacts with the State of California; and (3)  
4 the assertion of personal jurisdiction comports with fair play and substantial justice.

5       5.     Personal jurisdiction is proper as to Defendant Navarro because: (1) Defendant  
6 Navarro purposefully availed himself of the benefits of the State of California; (2) the controversy  
7 is related to and arises out of Defendant Navarro's contacts with the State of California; and (3)  
8 the assertion of personal jurisdiction comports with fair play and substantial justice.

9       6.     Personal jurisdiction is proper as to Defendant Collins because: (1) Defendant  
10 Collins purposefully availed himself of the benefits of the State of California; (2) the controversy  
11 is related to and arises out of Defendant Collins's contacts with the State of California; and (3) the  
12 assertion of personal jurisdiction comports with fair play and substantial justice.

13       7.     Personal jurisdiction is proper as to Defendant Noble Capital Group because: (1)  
14 Noble Capital Group purposefully availed itself of the benefits of the State of California; (2) the  
15 controversy is related to and arises out of Noble Capital Group's contacts with the State of  
16 California; and (3) the assertion of personal jurisdiction comports with fair play and substantial  
17 justice.

18       8.     Personal jurisdiction is proper as to Defendant Noble Capital Fund Management  
19 because: (1) Noble Capital Fund Management purposefully availed itself of the benefits of the  
20 State of California; (2) the controversy is related to and arises out of Noble Capital Fund  
21 Management's contacts with the State of California; and (3) the assertion of personal jurisdiction  
22 comports with fair play and substantial justice.

23       9.     Personal jurisdiction is proper as to Defendant Noble Capital Servicing because:  
24 (1) Noble Capital Servicing purposefully availed itself of the benefits of the State of California;  
25 (2) the controversy is related to and arises out of Noble Capital Servicing's contacts with the State  
26 of California; and (3) the assertion of personal jurisdiction comports with fair play and substantial  
27 justice.

28

1           10. Personal jurisdiction is proper as to Noble Capital Properties because: (1) Noble  
2 Capital Properties purposefully availed itself of the benefits of the State of California; (2) the  
3 controversy is related to and arises out of Noble Capital Properties' contacts with the State of  
4 California; and (3) the assertion of personal jurisdiction comports with fair play and substantial  
5 justice.

6 11. Personal jurisdiction is proper as to Defendants Noble Capital Real Estate,  
7 Streamline, Noble Capital REO, Income Fund II, Income Fund III, Jadon Newman as trustee for  
8 JFN Trust, Hannah Heerlein as trustee for NA Newman Trust and KA Newman Trust, and  
9 Ragland Holdings (collectively, the “Added Defendants”). The Added Defendants purposefully  
10 availed themselves of the benefits of the State of California and intentionally took part in a  
11 conspiratorial enterprise which damaged the Fund, a limited partnership with its principal place of  
12 business in California, with knowledge that their actions would cause harm in California.  
13 Personal jurisdiction is also proper in this Court as to the Added Defendants because this Court  
14 already has jurisdiction over at least one of the participants in the alleged conspiracy, and “the  
15 ends of justice” require such jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1965(b).

16 12. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S. Code § 1391 because a  
17 substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims occurred in the Northern District of  
18 California. Defendants conducted business in the Northern District of California and engaged in  
19 many of the acts alleged in the course of that business, including traveling to the Northern District  
20 of California to conduct negotiations regarding the subject matter of the Complaint.

## **PARTIES**

22        13.      The Fund is a limited partnership created pursuant to the laws of the State of  
23 Delaware with its principal place of business located at 555 Montgomery Street, Suite 1501, San  
24 Francisco, California.

25        14.      Defendant Jadon Newman holds himself out to the public as the Chief Executive  
26 Officer of Noble Capital Group and various additional Noble Capital entities. On information and  
27 belief, Newman is a resident of Texas. Newman is a manager of Noble Capital Group as well as  
28

1 other Noble Capital entities, and has an ownership interest in Noble Capital Group due to his  
 2 ownership of the Newman trusts referenced below in paragraphs 18-19.

3       15.     Defendant Chris Ragland holds himself out to the public as the Chief Operating  
 4 Officer of Noble Capital Group and various additional Noble Capital entities. On information and  
 5 belief, Ragland is a resident of Texas. Ragland is a member of Noble Capital Group and holds an  
 6 ownership interest in it due to his ownership of Ragland Holdings.

7       16.     Defendant Romney Navarro holds himself out to the public as the Chief Lending  
 8 Officer of Noble Capital Group and various additional Noble Capital entities. On information and  
 9 belief, Defendant Navarro is a resident of Texas. Navarro is a member of Noble Capital Group.

10       17.     Defendant Grady Collins holds himself out to the public as the Chief Financial  
 11 Officer of Noble Capital Group and various additional Noble Capital entities. On information and  
 12 belief, Collins is a resident of Texas. Collins is a member of Noble Capital Group and is the  
 13 manager of several Noble Capital subsidiaries, including Noble Capital Fund Management.

14       18.     Defendant Jadon Newman is the trustee for JFN Trust, which owns or controls a  
 15 portion of Noble Capital. On information and belief, JFN Trust was created pursuant to the laws  
 16 of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business in Texas. Defendant Newman owns and  
 17 controls the JFN Trust, which is a member of Noble Capital Fund Group, Noble Capital Fund  
 18 Management, and the larger Noble Capital enterprise. All actions taken by Newman as a manager  
 19 and CEO of Noble Capital were also taken by the JFN Trust as member.

20       19.     Defendant Hannah Heerlein is the trustee for NA Newman Trust and KA Newman  
 21 Trust, which own or control a portion of Noble Capital. On information and belief, NA Newman  
 22 Trust and KA Newman Trust were created pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas, with their  
 23 principal place of business in Texas. Defendant Newman owns and controls NA Newman Trust,  
 24 which is a member of Noble Capital Group and the larger Noble Capital enterprise. All actions  
 25 taken by Newman as a manager and CEO of Noble Capital were also taken by NA Newman Trust  
 26 and KA Newman Trust as members.

27       20.     Defendant Ragland Holdings owns or controls a portion of Noble Capital. On  
 28 information and belief, Ragland Holdings was created pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas,

1 with its principal place of business in Texas. Defendant Ragland owns and controls Ragland  
2 Holdings, LLC, which is a member of Noble Capital Group and the larger Noble Capital  
3 enterprise. All actions taken by Ragland as a manager and COO of Noble Capital were also taken  
4 by Ragland Holdings as member.

5       21.    Defendant Noble Capital Group is a limited liability company created pursuant to  
6 the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 8200 N. Mopac  
7 Expressway, #320, Austin, Texas. Noble Capital Group is the parent entity to the other Noble  
8 Capital subsidiary entities.

9       22.    Defendant Noble Capital Fund Management is a limited liability company created  
10 pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 8200 N.  
11 Mopac Expressway, #320, Austin, Texas.

12       23.    Defendant Noble Capital Servicing is a limited liability company created pursuant  
13 to the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 8200 N. Mopac  
14 Expressway, #320, Austin, Texas.

15       24.    Defendant Noble Capital Properties is a limited liability company created pursuant  
16 to the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 8200 N. Mopac  
17 Expressway, #320, Austin, Texas.

18       25.    Defendant Noble Capital Real Estate is a limited liability company created pursuant to  
19 the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 8200 N. Mopac  
20 Expressway, #320, Austin, Texas.

21       26.    Defendant Noble Capital REO is a limited liability company created pursuant to the  
22 laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 8200 N. Mopac  
23 Expressway, #320, Austin, Texas.

24       27.    Defendant Streamline is a limited liability company created pursuant to the laws of  
25 the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 8200 N. Mopac Expressway,  
26 #320, Austin, Texas.

27

28

1       28.     Defendant Noble Capital Income Fund II is a limited liability company created  
2 pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 8200 N.  
3 Mopac Expressway, #320, Austin, Texas.

4 29. Defendant Noble Capital Income Fund III is a limited liability company created  
5 pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 8200 N.  
6 Mopac Expressway, #320, Austin, Texas.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

## 8 | I. Overview

9       30.     This Action is based on a wide-ranging pattern of fraudulent, unlawful, and unfair  
10 competitive conduct by four business partners: Defendants Newman, Ragland, Navarro, and  
11 Collins (collectively, the “Individual Defendants”). The Individual Defendants own and operate  
12 dozens of corporate alter ego entities, whose activities they often discuss under the general banner  
13 of “Noble Capital,” an enterprise-in-fact.

14        31. On information and belief, Noble Capital’s interrelated companies provide  
15 investment opportunities to high-net-worth retirees and other investors, primarily in the form of  
16 fractionalized partnerships with assets built around “hard-money” lending, *i.e.* short-term high  
17 interest construction loans to borrowers that are secured by real property.

18        32.    Noble Capital describes its hard-money lending business as a “vertically  
19 integrated” organization, which means that, through various corporate entities, it not only procures  
20 funds to invest, but also originates, diligences, structures, and services loans, and then manages  
21 defaulted loans on the back end through aggressive foreclosures, among other things. At every  
22 step of the way, Noble Capital generates substantial income, in the form of advisory, origination,  
23 servicing, sales, workout fees, capital gains for cash profits, and/or capital losses for tax-loss  
24 benefits, which are taken out of the pocket of investors.

25        33.    Noble Capital's business depends on its highly curated—and highly misleading—  
26 general public advertising practices. To obtain funds from investors, Noble misleads retiree and  
27 non-retiree investors in a number of ways. It guarantees, without any basis or caveat, that it can  
28 deliver above-market, 8.25% returns with no risk of loss. It falsely represents to investors that it

1 has obtained credentials and regulatory clearances in its own name that it has not obtained. It  
 2 freerides off of the name, credentials, and goodwill of entities like the Fund without proper  
 3 attribution. It lies to investors about its extensive history of bankruptcies, claiming instead that it  
 4 has not declared bankruptcy. And it lies to investors about its leverage, falsely claiming that it is  
 5 entirely unleveraged.

6       34.     The Fund, which manages approximately \$24,000,000 in assets, funds high-yield  
 7 senior secured first-lien mortgages on residential real-estate. The Fund is one of Noble Capital's  
 8 primary business partners, and also one of Noble Capital's primary victims. Due to Noble  
 9 Capital's misconduct, the Fund has also become one of Noble Capital's largest creditors.

10       35.     The Fund and Noble Capital's relationship is based on a series of contracts  
 11 including a Management Advisory Services Agreement ("MASA") and a Limited Partnership  
 12 Agreement ("LPA") wherein Noble Capital recruits limited partner investors into the Fund and  
 13 then uses its suite of companies to recommend, originate, and manage real-estate loans for the  
 14 Fund with the goal of earning interest income. Noble Capital's primary duties include diligencing  
 15 borrowers, recommending sound loans to the Fund, originating loans that the Fund approves,  
 16 acting as a loan servicer (*i.e.* collecting payments and forwarding them to the Fund and keeping  
 17 books and records), and working out troubled loans. But from the start, the Individual Defendants  
 18 used their Noble Capital enterprise to defraud the Fund out of substantial assets.

19       36.     Specifically, Defendants serially furnished false and misleading credit memoranda  
 20 to the Fund to induce it to fund loans that Defendants knew posed an unacceptable risk of default.  
 21 These memoranda falsely represented that borrowers' credit and background reports "came back  
 22 clear," when in reality, certain borrowers had multiple foreclosures, while others were already in  
 23 default to other Noble-controlled entities.

24       37.     As a result, 13% of the loans that Noble sourced for the Fund (representing 17% of  
 25 the Fund's total assets) defaulted, casting a cloud over millions of dollars in Fund assets. That is  
 26 no coincidence; Defendants' overarching plan was to shift losses from other Noble-controlled  
 27 entities to the Fund through the fraud described above, while concealing the underlying facts from  
 28 the Fund.

1       38. To that end, Noble has refused to provide the Fund’s independent auditor with  
 2 access and documents requested in an attempt to hide its misdeeds and has falsely claimed that it  
 3 does not have the capability to produce monthly loan statements for any particular loan. It has  
 4 also ceased forwarding any principal or interest payments on the loans in the Fund’s portfolio  
 5 since May 20, 2019, and as a result, has wrongfully commandeered millions of dollars of assets  
 6 that it has no entitlement to.

7       39. This pattern of fraud has resulted in losses for the Fund while simultaneously  
 8 resulting in gains for the Individual Defendants and their Noble Capital enterprise.

9       40. The Fund’s substantial losses are compounded by the fact that Noble Capital  
 10 promised the Fund’s investors above-market, 8.25% returns, which the Fund has been unable to  
 11 deliver. This too harms the Fund while advantaging Noble Capital, because Noble Capital uses  
 12 the Fund’s underperformance to besmirch the Fund and divert its investors into other Noble-  
 13 controlled funds.

14       41. Moreover, in September 2019, Noble Capital unlawfully raided and caused the  
 15 transfer of all of the Fund’s assets (over \$26 million, including more than \$2 million in interest  
 16 income), away from the Fund into other investment vehicles solely owned and controlled by the  
 17 Defendants, without any notice to the Fund, without any right to do so, and in contradiction of the  
 18 LPA and MASA.

19       42. Noble’s conduct, as described more fully below, has harmed the Fund  
 20 economically and competitively, giving rise to claims for civil violations of the Racketeer  
 21 Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act (“RICO”), Fraud, False Advertising, Unfair Competition,  
 22 Breach of Contract, Conversion, and Unjust Enrichment.

23 **II. The Individual Defendants Organized an Enterprise Consisting of**  
 24 **Numerous Alter Ego Entities**

25       43. The Individual Defendants own and operate a web of alter-ego entities that they  
 26 refer to interchangeably as “Noble Capital” or “Noble” (hereafter, “Noble Capital” or “Noble”).

27       44. The Individual Defendants, who are all officers of Noble Capital and partners to  
 28 one another, operate Noble Capital as an enterprise-in-fact.

1       45.     As described by Defendant Newman, “[n]ot all partnerships have the dynamics and  
 2 the strengths that we bring to the table as the four owners of Noble Capital.” The full extent of  
 3 each of their involvement in the Noble Capital enterprise and its dozens of alter-ego subsidiaries is  
 4 still under investigation.

5       46.     Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that all of the Noble  
 6 Capital entities are treated as interchangeable among the Individual Defendants. All or  
 7 substantially all of the Noble Capital entities reside at the same address and are run by individuals  
 8 who each use one @noblecapital.com e-mail address regardless of the entity on whose behalf they  
 9 are acting. On information and belief, the Individual Defendants transfer assets and monies,  
 10 including personal assets, in and among these entities without exchanging appropriate  
 11 consideration or respecting corporate formalities for illegitimate purposes.

12       47.     As such, at all relevant times, the Noble Capital related entities were alter egos of  
 13 the Defendants Newman, Ragland, Navarro, and Collins, and alter egos of one another, in that at  
 14 all times there existed such a unity of interest in ownership between the Noble Capital entities and  
 15 the Individual Defendants and between Noble Capital subsidiary entities and one another that any  
 16 separateness has ceased to exist between them.

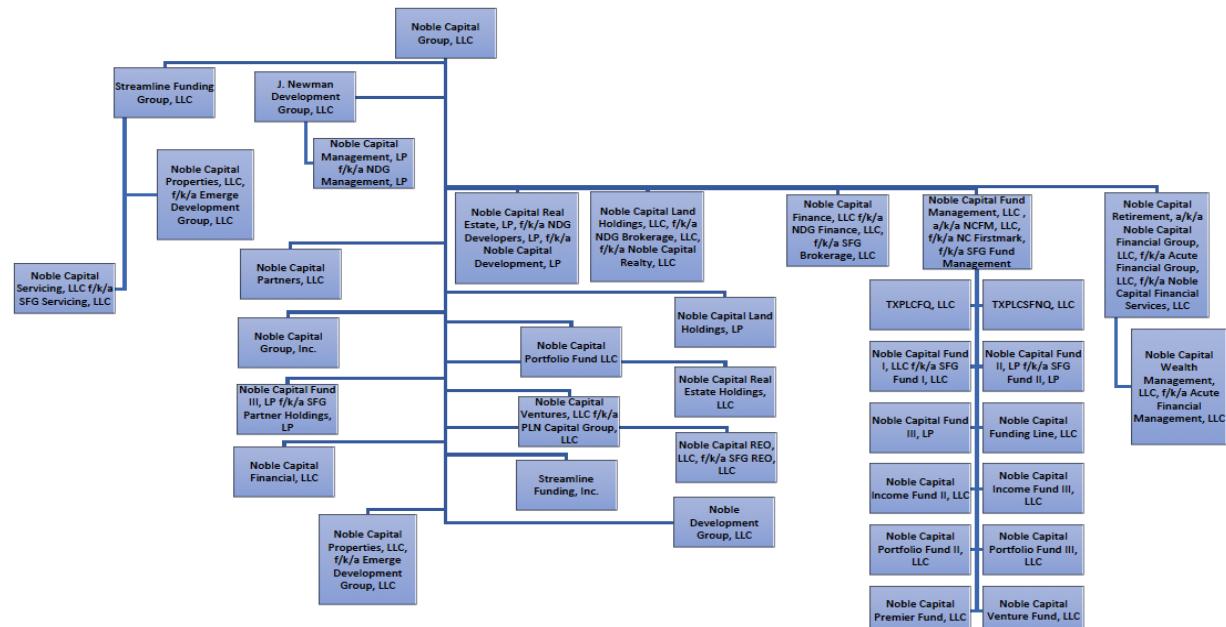
17       48.     Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Defendants have  
 18 structured their enterprise-in-fact in such a way as to permit them to funnel assets into certain  
 19 Noble Capital entities as needed to preserve the Individual Defendants’ compensation, to prop up  
 20 the balance sheets and associated investment returns of certain Noble Capital entities, to stow  
 21 losses in other Noble Capital entities for purposes of opportunistic bankruptcies, and to lay blame  
 22 at the feet of partners, like the Fund, who are involved in certain of those entities.

23       49.     On information and belief, the Individual Defendants control or have controlled  
 24 several dozen limited liability companies and limited partnership entities, which they have used  
 25 over the past decade as vehicles to mislead business partners, competitors, and the investing public  
 26 about the location and size of their assets and liabilities.

27       50.     These Noble Capital entities include Noble Capital Group, Noble Capital Fund  
 28 Management, Noble Capital Properties, Noble Capital Servicing, Noble Capital Real Estate,

1 Streamline, and others, which hold themselves out to the public as specialists in retirement  
 2 investment planning, private lending of “hard money” loans, and real estate owned (“REO”)  
 3 workouts.

4 51. The following chart illustrates some of the key Noble Capital entities at issue in  
 5 this litigation, which are related by ownership and/or management:



### III. Noble Capital's Obligations to the Fund

18 52. The Fund is organized pursuant to a Limited Partnership Agreement between the  
 19 general partner of the Fund and its limited partners that is also in accordance with the Private  
 20 Placement Memorandum (sometimes referred to as “PPM”) of the Fund.

21 53. The overarching purpose of the Fund as delineated in the LPA and PPM was to  
 22 preserve Fund principal and achieve consistent short-term income primarily through senior  
 23 secured first-lien mortgages on residential real estate.

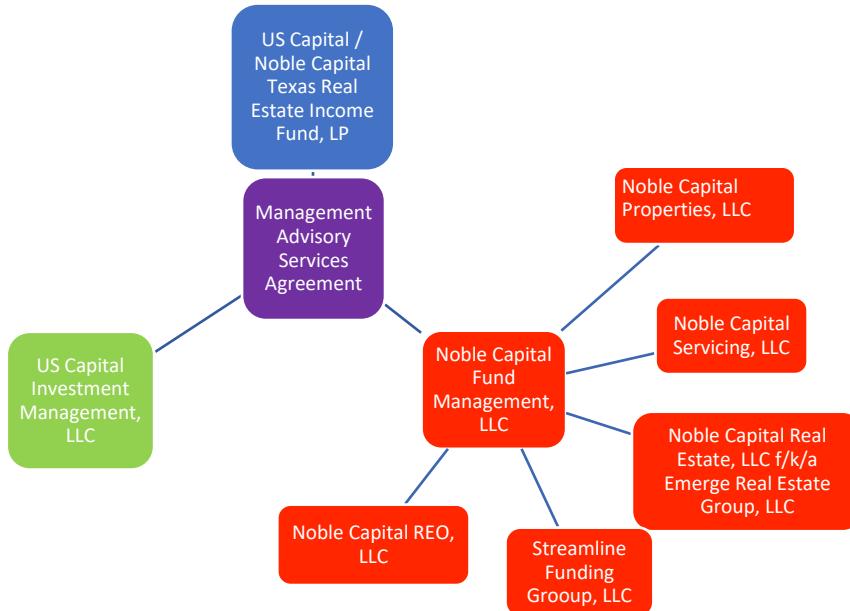
24 54. The LPA provides in section 8.1 that US Capital Global Investment Management,  
 25 LLC will act as the Fund’s general partner and have the exclusive right to manage, control, and  
 26 conduct the business of the Fund. Similarly, in a “Private Placement Agreement,” the Fund and  
 27 various Noble Capital entities, as well as the Individual Defendants, engaged US Capital Global  
 28

1 Securities, Inc. (collectively with US Capital Global Investment Management, LLC “US Capital”)  
 2 to act as the Fund’s exclusive placement agent.

3       55. Some of the key responsibilities for effectuating the goals of the LPA and PPM  
 4 were memorialized in the “MASA” between the Fund and Noble Capital Fund Management,  
 5 which governs the Fund’s business relationship with multiple Noble entities. Pursuant to the  
 6 MASA, the Noble entities agreed to:

- 7           • source, and originate prospective real estate transactions for the Fund;
- 8           • conduct due diligence on prospective borrowers;
- 9           • structure, securitize, document, and execute transactions based on due  
 diligence;
- 10          • manage the portfolio of loans with respect to collateral monitoring, cash  
 management, and any other activities as requested by the Fund;
- 11          • exit, and liquidate holdings; and
- 12          • repossess, restructure, or otherwise remedy properties or borrowers in  
 events of default to preserve Fund assets.

13       56. The diagram below connects the three signatories to the MASA to the purple block  
 14 that represents the MASA. The diagram then further shows the other Noble Capital entities that  
 15 Noble Capital Fund Management, LLC utilized to perform its obligations under the MASA:  
 16



1 **IV. The Individual Defendants and Noble Capital Defraud the Fund into**  
 2 **Taking Bad Loans for Their Personal Gain**

3       57.     On information and belief, the Individual Defendants, acting through their Noble  
 4 Capital entities, never intended to uphold their contractual obligations to the Fund or its individual  
 5 retirement account investors, and instead intended to siphon Fund assets through a coordinated  
 6 scheme.

7       58.     The MASA tasks the Noble entities with conducting appropriate due diligence on  
 8 prospective borrowers and making funding recommendations to the Fund, among other things.

9       59.     Yet, instead of conducting appropriate due diligence on prospective borrowers,  
 10 Defendants intentionally recommended bad loans that had an unacceptable risk of default.  
 11 Defendants stood to gain from those loans whether or not they performed because they obtained  
 12 substantial origination and servicing fees on the front end through the entities Noble Capital  
 13 Servicing, Noble Capital Fund Management, and Streamline Funding Group, and substantial  
 14 workout fees and profits on the back end through the entities Noble Capital Real Estate, Noble  
 15 Capital REO, and Noble Capital Properties.

16       60.     Defendants' scheme to defraud the Fund was effectuated through a series of false  
 17 and/or highly misleading credit memoranda that were provided to the Fund to induce it to take on  
 18 bad loans.

19       61.     For example, on April 25, 2017, Defendants sent a credit memorandum to the Fund  
 20 signed by Defendant Ragland recommending that the Fund finance a loan to FDI Divine Property  
 21 Group, LLC ("FDI"). According to the credit memorandum, Noble ran background reports for  
 22 FDI's owners that "came back clean." But in reality, the manager of FDI, who signed for the note,  
 23 had three foreclosures in the ten-year period leading up to this promissory note, the most recent of  
 24 which was recorded in March 2016. Even worse, Noble Capital had actually entered into this loan  
 25 in July 2016, a mere four months after that recent foreclosure. Thus, by the time the Fund was  
 26 brought into the transaction, Noble had been dealing with FDI and its owners for nine months.  
 27 Soon after the Fund stepped in, FDI defaulted on the loan, causing the Fund losses.

1       62.     Similarly, on April 20, 2017, Defendants sent a credit memorandum signed by  
 2 Defendants Ragland and Collins to the Fund recommending that it fund a loan to Northshore  
 3 Homes. As with the previous loan, the credit memorandum stated that all background checks  
 4 “came back clear.” But a title, lien, and registration report on Northshore Homes reveals that it  
 5 has had 17 foreclosures and 18 judgments entered against it. On information and belief, many or  
 6 all of those predated the loan that Noble Capital recommended. Furthermore, as with other bad  
 7 loans, Noble Capital had actually entered into this loan seven months before it recommended it to  
 8 the Fund. Accordingly, Noble knew or recklessly disregarded the fact that it would go into  
 9 default, which is exactly what happened.

10      63.     As a final example, on September 25, 2017, Defendants sent a credit memorandum  
 11 signed by Defendant Collins to the Fund recommending that it fund a loan to Loved Homes of  
 12 Austin, LLC (“Loved Homes”). The credit memorandum was issued in support of the transaction  
 13 and noted that all background checks “came back clear.” As with the loans to FDI and Northshore  
 14 Homes, Noble Capital had actually entered into the loan with Loved Homes much earlier, on  
 15 October 26, 2016, eleven months before it recommended the loan to the Fund. Remarkably,  
 16 Noble Capital itself caused a notice of default to be filed on behalf of James Wiggins against  
 17 Loved Homes just *three months* before it recommended that the Fund step in with funding. As  
 18 with the other bad loans, Loved Homes quickly defaulted.

19      64.     To make matters worse, Defendants misled the Fund into believing that Noble  
 20 Capital had tightened its diligence process to ensure that borrowers had appropriate experience  
 21 and credentials, among other things. Defendant Ragland described these “credentials” in a video  
 22 for the general investing public as follows: “If they don’t know what they’re doing, if they  
 23 haven’t done it before, there’s no reason we should give them a loan and let them try it out on us.  
 24 So if they don’t have experience or credentials, not gonna happen.” *See*  
 25 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a36wkjzTr0A> (last accessed May 17, 2019 at 2:57 p.m.).  
 26 Borrowers with lengthy foreclosure histories or very recent defaults very obviously do not have  
 27 “credentials.”

28

1       65. Plaintiff's investigation is ongoing, but Plaintiff expects to uncover additional acts  
 2 of fraud and misconduct by Defendants.

3       66. As a result of Defendants' fraudulent credit memoranda and intentional diligence  
 4 failures, 13% of the loans that Defendants originated for the Fund (representing 17% of the Fund's  
 5 assets) defaulted. Many of the defaults were "early payment defaults," which is an industry term  
 6 of art for loans that are so atrocious that the borrower defaults without ever making a single  
 7 payment.

8       67. Part of Defendants' overarching plan was to defraud the Fund into taking on bad  
 9 debt from other Noble-controlled entities. This served Defendants' unlawful enterprise scheme  
 10 because it allowed Defendants to conceal losses in other Noble subsidiaries by transferring them to  
 11 the Fund. The Fund is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that shifting bad loans  
 12 among their various entities was Defendants' *modus operandi* dating back nearly a decade, and it  
 13 has enabled them to extract additional money from their scheme from a wider pool of individuals  
 14 over a lengthy timeframe. As a result, the Fund has discovered at investor events that it is not the  
 15 only victim of the Noble Capital scheme.

16       68. For example, the Fund is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges that, in a  
 17 non-Fund transaction, Noble Capital recommended a borrower who previously had numerous  
 18 foreclosures entered against him. His loans through Noble went into foreclosure, which caused  
 19 losses. Yet Noble profited—in addition to the substantial origination and servicing fees it  
 20 obtained on the front end, most of the renovation work on the subject properties had been  
 21 completed at the time of default, which resulted in a windfall for Defendants on the back end.  
 22 Making matters worse, the borrower on that loan has publicly stated that Defendants forced this  
 23 property into foreclosure by wrongfully denying a final draw on his loans, to cause a default.

24       69. When the Fund brought Defendants' unacceptably high-default rate to their  
 25 attention in Q2 2018, Defendants agreed to purchase the defaulted loans from the Fund. As  
 26 described more fully *infra* at Part VI, this led to a separate set of wrongful conduct by Defendants  
 27 that damaged the Fund.

28

1       70.     In addition to the defaults already described, Noble Capital purchased a further set  
 2 of defaulted loans in Q3 and Q4 2018. These loans amounted to approximately 5% of all loans  
 3 Defendants originated for the Fund.

4       71.     Just like the initial set of bad loans, some of these were early payment defaults.  
 5 The Fund has been forced to seek out a third-party servicer for collections and workouts for these  
 6 additional loans.

7       72.     Defendants have kept the substantial loan origination fees generated by these loans.  
 8 On information and belief, Defendants have also pocketed substantial gains from foreclosing on  
 9 the properties that secured the defaulted loans through their companies Noble Capital Real Estate  
 10 and Noble Capital REO, and indeed, have converted many of these properties for their own gain,  
 11 as set forth further below.

12       73.     Defendants did this by entering into loans that posed an unacceptable degree of risk  
 13 so that they could generate origination and servicing fees on the front end, and work-out fees and  
 14 other REO-related windfalls on the back end, all while attempting to conceal the losses that they  
 15 were incurring from the Fund and its investors.

16       74.     Defendants were motivated to transact with the Fund to obtain certain certifications  
 17 and credentials that the Fund – but not Defendants – had the qualifications and wherewithal to  
 18 obtain. Defendants used these valuable credentials to mislead investors into thinking that Noble  
 19 entities had gone through third-party diligence and audit processes, and received certifications and  
 20 approvals, that they had not gone through or obtained.

21       75.     Defendants were further motivated to transact with the Fund to increase their  
 22 amount of funds under management (which they generate proportional fees from), to establish  
 23 essentially a \$24,000,000 revolving line of credit through the Fund’s assets under management, to  
 24 be able to draw on that credit to fund loans without having to cobble together a group of individual  
 25 investors (which was Noble’s pre-Fund practice), to access the lending market for deals larger  
 26 than \$500,000 (which Noble was unable to consistently access prior to its partnership with the  
 27 Fund), and to freeride off of the fact that the Fund is audited annually by a neutral third-party  
 28 (which high-net-worth investors understand and care about).

1        **V. The Individual Defendants and Noble Capital Engage in False**  
 2        **Advertising and Unfair Competition**

3        76.      Defendants' scheme goes well beyond harming the Fund's existing assets under  
 4 management and extends to the Fund's reputation, goodwill and business opportunities.

5        77.      Defendants' business revolves around a curated assortment of folksy marketing  
 6 techniques that are, in fact, an overarching false advertising scheme. Defendants solicit investors  
 7 through steakhouse "retirement seminars," quarterly "state of the company" seminars, and other  
 8 informational events featuring wine, "brews," and "authentic Texas BBQ." At these events, high-  
 9 net-worth retirees and other potential investors are treated to free food and alcohol, before  
 10 imbibing Noble Capital's misleading and false investment advertising.

11        78.      Below is an image of the web portal for Noble Capital's upcoming events, which  
 12 was captured from [noblecapital.com/resources/events](http://noblecapital.com/resources/events) on May 7, 2019 at 3:07 p.m.



30        79.      The individuals in the image above in the righthand column are, from left to right,  
 31 Defendant Newman, Defendant Collins, Defendant Ragland, and Defendant Navarro.

32        80.      Defendants use a similar folksy approach to create a false sense of security and  
 33 trust via their online and print marketing scheme. Among other things, Defendants have created

1 multiple “candid” interviews with Newman, Collins, and Ragland, numerous other highly  
 2 produced but misleading advertising videos, and a weekly radio show, all of which contain  
 3 numerous misrepresentations.

4       81.    Noble Capital’s systematic pattern of misrepresentation, false advertising and  
 5 unfair competition against the Fund includes, without limitation, the following specific acts, which  
 6 are described further in the sections that follow:

- 7           (A)    freeriding off of the Fund’s CUSIP, goodwill, name, and reputation, to  
 8 divert investors into their own wholly-controlled investment vehicles;
- 9           (B)    falsely promising guaranteed no-risk returns, then attempting to manipulate  
 10 cost accounting to meet those goals and attributing shortfalls to the Fund;  
 11 and
- 12           (C)    unfairly competing with the fund by misleading investors about Noble  
 13 Capital’s extensive bankruptcy history and falsely claiming to be  
 14 unleveraged.

15       82.    Defendants false and misleading statements are attributed either to the Individual  
 16 Defendants directly, as described more specifically below, or more generally to Noble Capital or  
 17 Noble without specific attribution. Noble Capital Group and Noble Capital Fund Management are  
 18 the primary entities who use those statements to funnel investors into Noble-controlled funds.

19       83.    On information and belief, Defendants have diverted millions of dollars in  
 20 investment monies from the Fund through Defendants’ false advertising scheme and caused other  
 21 financial and regulatory harms to the Fund.

22       A.    **Defendants Use the Fund’s CUSIP, Goodwill, Name, and Reputation**  
 23           **to Mislead Investors**

24       84.    The Fund, through the efforts of US Capital, applied for and obtained a CUSIP  
 25 number—a unique, nine-digit alphanumeric code that identifies it as a financial security under the  
 26 standards of the Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures—for use in listing and  
 27 advertising the Fund’s offering.

28       85.    Defendants trade on the CUSIP number of the Fund, and by extension, its  
 29 reputation and name, by using it in advertisements for Noble entities without permission or  
 30 attribution.

1       86.     This misleads investors into believing that the Noble entities have achieved  
 2 financial safety and soundness benchmarks that have been verified by third-party monitoring  
 3 entities, when in fact only the Fund has those credentials.

4       87.     For example, on March 27, 2018, Noble Capital published a fraudulent press  
 5 release, attached here as **Exhibit B**, with the headline “Noble Capital Issued CUSIP Securities  
 6 Identification.”

7       88.     In that same release, Defendant Newman misled investors by asserting: “Obtaining  
 8 **our CUSIP** is the culmination of many months of effort . . . **We worked closely with Fidelity who**  
 9 **conducted a great deal of diligence on Noble Capital** and the Fund throughout this process.”  
 10 (Emphasis added.)

11       89.     Similarly, Defendant Ragland stated: “We’re excited to bring this opportunity to a  
 12 larger pool of advisers and potential investors through a highly reputable platform.”

13       90.     Noble Capital further stated: “The CUSIP, or Committee on Uniform Security  
 14 Identification Procedures . . . represents accurate and efficient clearance and settlement of  
 15 securities.”

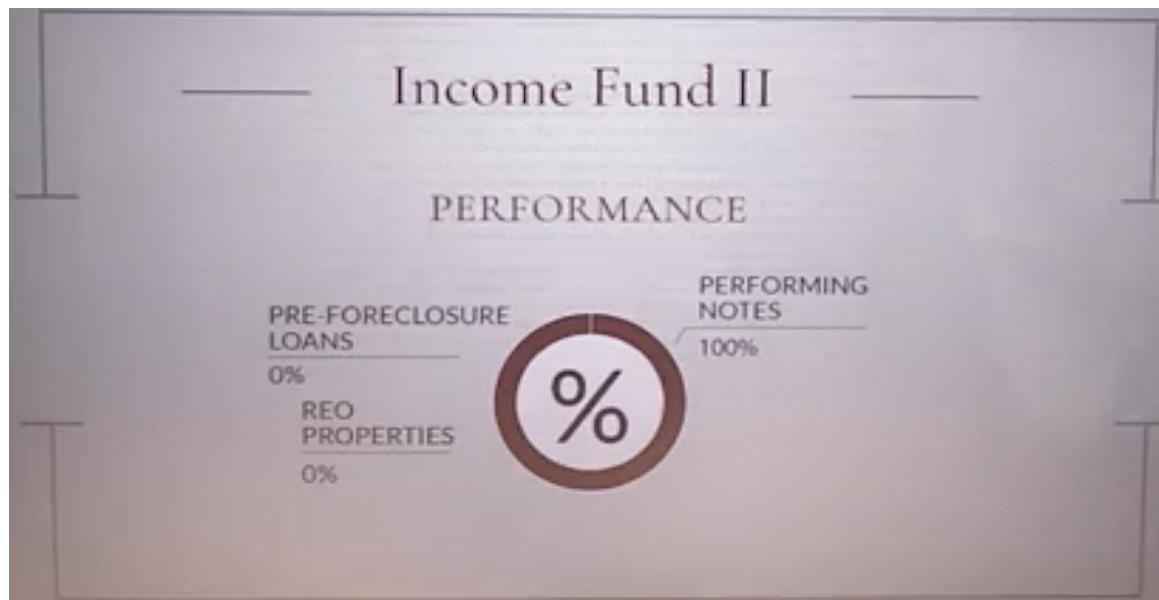
16       91.     This press release was not an outlier. In Noble Capital’s Q1 2018 “State of the  
 17 Company” report, which was published on Noble Capital’s website on or around April 24, 2018,  
 18 Noble Capital misleadingly stated: “After many months of work and third-party due diligence, we  
 19 were issued a CUSIP securities identification for our Signature Fund.”

20       92.     Likewise, in Noble Capital’s Q2 2018 “State of the Company” report, which was  
 21 published on Noble Capital’s website on June 27, 2018, Noble Capital misleadingly referred to “[t]he  
 22 issuance of Noble Capital’s CUSIP identification and subsequent Fidelity listing last quarter . . .”

23       93.     All of these references to Noble’s CUSIP are misleading because Noble Capital  
 24 does not have a CUSIP. The Fund has a CUSIP.

25       94.     Having lured investors through Noble’s door by freeriding on the credentials of the Fund,  
 26 Defendants wrongfully divert them into other Noble funds and investment vehicles by (1) portraying the  
 27 losses that the Fund was unwilling to cover as the Fund’s fault rather than Noble’s, and (2) saddling the  
 28 Fund with the lowest performing loans of any of the funds that Noble manages.

1 95. For example, in Noble Capital’s Q1 2019 “State of the Company” presentation,  
2 Defendant Collins showed slides comparing the Fund’s non-performing notes unfavorably to two  
3 Noble-controlled funds that were created in February 2019 to compete with the Fund, “Income  
4 Fund II” and “Income Fund III.” After describing the Fund’s non-performance rate of 7.5%,  
5 Collins showed Income Fund II’s performance slide, which looks like this:



16 Collins stated: "Performance, this is the one I want to highlight. I don't think there's a ranking  
17 for private lending debt funds, but if there were as far as performance goes, we're tied for #1 in the  
18 world. Can anybody else say that they're in a real estate debt fund that's the #1 performing debt  
19 fund in the world. I'm gonna say it again because I may [sic] be able to say it again next quarter.  
20 Right now we're tied #1 in the world in performance. We've talked a lot about that earlier,  
21 superior performance, [Defendant Navarro] talked about it in underwriting, that's definitely a  
22 reflection here in our fund with [sic] you can't get much superior [sic] than that."

23        96. For Income Fund III, Defendant Collins displayed a slide showing 95% performing  
24 notes, and stated: "Can't quite say we're tied for #1, but we're up there pretty high."

25        97.      This comparison, in conjunction with Defendant's messaging to individual  
26 investors about the Fund's management, was designed to mislead investors and divert them from  
27 the Fund into Income Funds II and III and other Noble-controlled funds. This is misleading for  
28 the additional reason that Noble Capital made all of the loan funding decisions for all three funds.

B. Defendants Falsely Promise Guaranteed No-Risk Returns, Then Attempt to Manipulate Results to Meet Those Goals and Mislead Investors About Performance

## **1. Defendants Mislead Investors by Promising Guaranteed Returns**

98. Defendants improperly and misleadingly advertise the Fund, as well as several of Noble Capital's other investment offerings, as guaranteeing a higher-than-market return, without any disclosure of the risk of loss. They then seek to manipulate actual returns to mislead investors about the substantial losses they have incurred.

99. For example, on January 23, 2018, Noble Capital published to its website an advertisement for the Fund without obtaining the Fund’s consent that promises investors an “8.25%\* annual return.” A copy of this advertisement is attached here as **Exhibit A**. Remarkably, the “\*” icon directs the reader to a footnote which, instead of containing appropriate cautionary language, furthers the lie by promising the 8.25% as a “pure gross return.” This is what that ad looks like:

PASSIVE TWO YEAR COMMITMENT	8.25%* ANNUAL RETURN	\$250,000 MINIMUM INVESTMENT	QUARTERLY INTEREST DISTRIBUTIONS
-----------------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------------	--

\*pure gross return

1       100. This is a false advertisement. In reality, none of the funds controlled by  
 2 Defendants are able to generate a guaranteed 8.25% return or any guaranteed return, and the Fund  
 3 has fallen short of that mark on multiple occasions.

4       101. This misleading advertisement is not an outlier – rather, it is one of countless  
 5 instances in which Defendants repeat this same false promise. For example, on Noble Capital's  
 6 Yelp page, a quote attributed to Defendant Ragland used to state (but has since been removed),  
 7 that "Noble Capital's members earn 8-10% interest on their money, short term, backed by real  
 8 estate." *See* <https://www.yelp.com/biz/noble-capital-austin-2> (accessed May 6, 2019 at 10:41  
 9 p.m.). This is what that looked like:

10  
 11 **Meet the Manager**



13       **Chris R.**

14       Manager

15       Chris Ragland is currently the Chief Operating Officer of Noble Capital.

16       The mission of Noble Capital is to be Texas' premiere Private Real Estate Lending Platform,  
 17 providing quality lending opportunities to members of our Private Lender Network.

18       Noble Capital's members earn 8-10% interest on their money, short term, backed by real  
 19 estate.

20  
 21       102. Similarly, Noble Capital's website and its YouTube channel prominently feature a  
 22 misleading one-minute introductory video wherein Noble Capital states: "HOW WOULD YOU  
 23 LIKE TO EARN 8-10% INTEREST ON YOUR MONEY?" That assertion is not, at any point,  
 24 accompanied by cautionary language. Here is a still frame taken from  
 25 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkAXXADQaYg> on Monday May 6, 2019 at 10:19 p.m.:

26

27

28



14        103. In addition, Defendants reinforce the message that their investments are guaranteed  
 15 by claiming they “offer a preferred return and no fluctuation with RE swing” on the Noble  
 16 Advisor Edge website, [noblecapital.com/investor-relations/advisor-edge](http://noblecapital.com/investor-relations/advisor-edge):

17        //////////////

18        INVEST    ADVISOR EDGE    OUR TEAM    BLOG    CONTACT

19        **✗ What makes this different than a REIT?**

20        Our investment model differs from REITs in the following ways:

21        • They are privately traded.  
 22        • We only deal with Texas-based single-family real estate, not commercial or multi-family properties.  
 23        • You can use cash or qualified money to invest directly in these properties unlike REITs which require that you  
 24        invest through a company, exchange-traded fund or mutual fund.  
 25        • They offer a preferred return and no fluctuation with RE swing.  
 26        • They are taxed as K-1.  
 27        • There is no research needed on how that property's market is doing or if it is cash-flowing. We do that for you.

1 104. Defendants further mislead investors by suggesting that investments that are made  
2 in any of its funds, including the Fund, are risk free. For example, Defendant Ragland stated the  
3 following to investors at Noble's Q1 2019 state of the company event, which was held in a large,  
4 theater-sized room in Austin, Texas, and published on youtube.com and facebook.com on or  
5 around April 29, 2019:

“I want to get into the real estate performance. So real estate and foreclosure specific details . . . ***more than half the people in this room are inside of funds, so regardless of how good of a job we do, you’re still getting your payments on your properties,*** but you still want to know that the underlying assets are healthy, so that’s why we’re going through the details today.”

10 Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56Zak45tcyk> at 31:10 (accessed on May 6 at  
11 10:48 p.m.).

12        105. This too is false. In truth, an investment in the Fund or in any of the Noble  
13 Capital's other funds does carry risk, including the risk of borrower default.

14        106. These are but a few of the countless instances in which Defendants have falsely  
15 promised investors an 8% or above guaranteed, no-risk return.

16        107. These material misrepresentations are relied upon by investors in the Fund,  
17 exposing the Fund to consumer dissatisfaction, requests for refunds and disgorgement, competitive  
18 injury, and potentially other civil and regulatory liabilities.

19 108. These material misrepresentations have also enabled Defendants to divert investors  
20 from the Fund into Noble Capital's wholly-owned funds.

**2. Having Set False Expectations, Defendants Mislead Investors About the Substantial Losses Incurred on Their Behalf**

23        109. Defendants also have attempted to induce the Fund to use improper accounting to  
24 mask losses. For example, in Q1 2018, Defendant Collins requested that additional amounts from  
25 the Fund's reserve be distributed to investors to cover performance shortfalls (*i.e.*, performance  
26 below the 8.25% that Defendants misleadingly promised). The Fund did not agree to use Fund  
27 reserves in the manner suggested, which would amount to improper accounting, but did agree to a

1 one-time “excess” payment to investors under the theory that this money would be recouped from  
 2 excess profit in Q2.

3       110. In Q2 2018, however, Defendant Collins instructed the Fund **not** to deduct the Q1  
 4 excess payment from Q2 returns. In response, the Fund reminded Noble that because “Grady  
 5 [Collins] had requested additional payments to be made last quarter,” those amounts needed to be  
 6 deducted from Q2 net income. This was consistent with the analysis the Fund’s CPA had  
 7 conducted and which the Fund had shared with Defendant Collins.

8       111. Nevertheless, Defendant Collins suggested that the Fund should “manage” returns  
 9 by taking these amounts “out of the loan loss reserves not out of future income from the next  
 10 quarter.” At this point US Capital’s managing partner, Charles Towle, had to remind Collins:  
 11 “We cannot use loan loss reserves for this. This is an account that is audited with strict  
 12 standards.”

13       112. In Q3 2018, Defendants doubled down on their scheme to cover up poor  
 14 performance after the Fund again projected a return to investors that was less than 8.25%.  
 15 Defendant Collins stated: “We can’t keep publishing the financial stating we hit the hurdle rate of  
 16 8.25% and the investors get less than that. We can explain it to them all we want but they don’t  
 17 really care and feel like they have been misled and will look to start withdrawing when their  
 18 lockup expires. Not good. ***Waiving some fees (not ours) to get the necessary cash for the full  
 19 distribution may be a good idea.***” (Emphasis added).

20       113. Two days later, Defendant Ragland ratcheted up the pressure on the Fund to cover  
 21 up Noble’s misrepresentations, stating: “I wanted you to know that we are getting our first calls  
 22 from lenders asking how they can get out of the fund. Two main drivers: 1) ***We missed the  
 23 return again.*** The current investors via Feeder Funds are paid on cash, as opposed to invested  
 24 capital. . . . As a result[,] the Feeder Funds are paying 7.90% or 7.74% depending on which one  
 25 you are in. . . . Not asking for a response, just giving you feedback. ***I hope we can get to  
 26 resolution quickly.***” (Emphasis added). Ragland’s proposed resolution, as described above, was  
 27 for either the Fund or US Capital to cover the delta between the Fund’s actual returns and Noble’s  
 28 fraudulently promised returns. The Fund refused to do so.

1           114. When the Fund refused to accede to Defendants' improper attempts to conceal their  
 2 poor performance, Noble simply informed investors that it was the Fund's agent, US Capital, and  
 3 not Noble, that was to blame.

4           **C. Defendants Mislead Investors About Past Bankruptcies and Financial**  
 5           **Stability**

6           115. Noble Capital, and Defendant Newman in particular, concocted a false historical  
 7 narrative about Noble Capital to portray it as a sound investment. In explaining the past struggles  
 8 of Noble Capital during the financial crisis of 2008-2010, Newman tells investors, "you can't trust  
 9 a man without a limp." But the story behind Noble's so called "limp" is based on a series of  
 10 misrepresentations and omissions.

11           116. Among other things, in a September 1, 2018 Originate report that was published  
 12 online, attached here as **Exhibit C**, Defendant Newman claimed that "[a]gainst the advice of  
 13 attorneys and counselors, the company did not file bankruptcy," during the financial crisis.

14           117. This is a lie. In reality, Newman was the authorized signatory on a Chapter 11  
 15 bankruptcy petition for Noble Capital Fund Management (sometimes "NCFM" or "NCFM,  
 16 LLC"), filed on June 1, 2010.

17           118. Newman filed an amended bankruptcy petition for Noble Capital Fund  
 18 Management on June 25, 2010. The amended petition notes several other corporate names used  
 19 by Noble Capital Fund Management, whose NCFM-assumed debts were therefore also being  
 20 discharged, including Noble Capital Fund III, LP, Noble Capital First Mark, LLC, and SSG  
 21 Partner Holdings, LP.

22           119. Among the \$6,716,765.51 in liabilities that Newman sought to discharge was a  
 23 \$69,200.44 debt owed to Noble Capital Servicing.

24           120. Newman also signed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition for the Noble entity Noble  
 25 Capital REO, LLC on November 03, 2008.

26           121. Newman also signed the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition for the Noble-related  
 27 entity Cypress Creek Village LP, on October 5, 2009. The petition sought to resolve  
 28 \$3,552,185.87 in liabilities, including liabilities owed to three separate Noble-related entities. The

1 largest of these amounted to \$299,600.00 and was owed to the investor entity Noble Capital Fund  
 2 II, LP.

3       122. Newman also signed the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition for the Noble entity NC  
 4 Firstmark, LLC, on June 1, 2010, with Noble Capital Fund Management, LLC listed as the  
 5 primary creditor.

6       123. In addition to the false narrative about its bankruptcies, Noble Capital also  
 7 misrepresents its leverage to investors to cause them to believe that investments in Noble entities  
 8 are safer than they in fact are, thus gaining an unfair competitive edge.

9       124. For example, in the Originate report discussed above, **Ex. C**, Defendant Newman  
 10 stated: “We are 100% unleveraged today which is going to come across as very surprising to  
 11 readers of this article . . . . We built our \$150 million portfolio unleveraged. That’s one of the  
 12 remarkable things we’ve been able to do.”

13       125. This is not just “surprising,” it is misleading. Noble, through its entity Noble  
 14 Capital Properties, stepped into the shoes of numerous borrowers who defaulted on loans that were  
 15 obtained from the Fund and other Noble funds. As a result, Noble Capital Properties is the single  
 16 largest borrower of Fund assets.

17       126. Even disinterested third parties have concluded that Noble Capital’s financial  
 18 condition contains systemic risk. In 2018, the Fund sought to obtain leverage from Legacy Texas  
 19 Bank (“Bank”), and successfully cleared numerous hurdles in that process. But when it came time  
 20 for the Bank to diligence Noble Capital, the Bank concluded that Noble was saddled with so many  
 21 excess liabilities that it presented an unacceptable risk. Accordingly, the Bank denied the Fund  
 22 the leverage it sought.

23       127. Defendant Navarro is listed as the point of contact for investors who have questions  
 24 about the false statements quoted above.

25       **D. Defendants Advertise Improper K-1 Tax Treatment to Investors**

26       128. An additional aspect of Defendants’ unfair competition scheme is Noble Capital’s  
 27 false representation to investors that income earned from investments in Noble Capital’s offerings  
 28

1 are not taxable as interest income, but instead are taxed more favorably as enterprise associated  
 2 income.

3       129. The income investors earn from the Fund and from Noble Capital’s other funds is  
 4 not enterprise associated income, it is interest income—*i.e.*, interest derived from short-term high-  
 5 yield real-estate loans, as Defendant Ragland has described it.

6       130. Nevertheless, on information and belief, the Noble entities falsely represent to their  
 7 investors that income from these investments is enterprise associated income. The Individual  
 8 Defendants, and Defendant Collins in particular, caused the Noble entities and the CPAs they  
 9 control to issue false K-1s that showed this investment income as enterprise associated income.

10       131. Noble Capital’s inaccurate claims of favorable tax treatment (and associated  
 11 issuance of improper K-1s) constitute false advertising and have caused competitive economic and  
 12 reputational harms to the Fund.

13 **VI. Defendants Convert the Fund’s Assets, Causing Millions in Further**

14 **Losses**

15       132. As a result of the bad loans that Defendants originated, and as a part of their  
 16 overarching plan to plunder Fund assets, Defendants, acting through Noble Capital Properties,  
 17 executed a series of interrelated Memoranda of Understanding with the Fund.

18       133. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 4, 2018 and signed by  
 19 Defendant Ragland, Noble Capital Properties “assume[d] the role of Borrower” and took  
 20 responsibility for covering the interest payable and principal for four foreclosed properties: (1)  
 21 Bullet Cove 21400; (2) Dakar Road W. 1724; (3) W 29th 1406; (4) Northwood 6004.

22       134. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 30, 2018 (the “MOU”)  
 23 and signed by Defendant Collins, Noble Capital Properties agreed to purchase six notes for a total  
 24 of \$2,389,125.91. The MOU covered the four properties listed above, as well as (5) Wigton 5026  
 25 and (6) Galesburg (collectively the “MOU properties”).

26       135. Noble Capital Properties and “all related entities” also promised to “issue a cross  
 27 corporate guarantee and security agreement in favor of the Fund,” and further agreed to provide  
 28 new notes along with the security agreement by September 1, 2018.

1       136. Despite these promises, Defendants never intended to and never have issued the  
 2 corporate guarantee and security agreement in favor of the Fund.

3       137. Likewise, Defendants never intended to and never have issued the new notes that  
 4 were promised for the aforementioned properties, even though the Fund and its auditor have  
 5 recently and repeatedly requested them.

6       138. On information and belief, Defendants wrongfully transferred three of the MOU  
 7 properties—Northwood 6004, W 29th 1406, and Wigton 5026 (collectively the “three converted  
 8 properties”—and potentially others, to a different Noble entity that has not yet been determined,  
 9 which may or may not be in privity of contract with the Fund, for their own personal gain.

10       139. On information and belief, the transfer of the three converted properties was not  
 11 made in exchange for any consideration, let alone reasonably equivalent value.

12       140. As a result of Noble Capital Properties’ actions, the Fund has lost valuable assets  
 13 and may be forced to restate its 2018 financials to account for that loss which, based on the  
 14 combined purchase price that Noble Capital Properties agreed to pay for the three converted  
 15 properties, is at least \$1,761,176.66.

16       141. Noble Capital Properties is also delinquent on \$41,337.29 interest owed pursuant to  
 17 the MOUs.

18       142. In addition to converting three of the six MOU properties, Defendants have also  
 19 caused the conversion of a fourth property, “Herbert 6604,” which Noble foreclosed on and  
 20 transferred to Noble Capital Properties. No note or security guarantee has issued for that property  
 21 either. In fact, a Noble employee informed the Fund that, with respect to the Herbert property,  
 22 “[t]here will be no unsecured new note created.” Given Noble’s refusal to issue a note, which has  
 23 no justification, the Fund may be forced to account for that property as a total loss. The principal  
 24 balance on Herbert 6604 is \$102,600.00.

25       143. Recently a fifth property denoted “Sherwood 2600” was foreclosed by Noble and  
 26 transferred to another separate Noble entity Streamline Funding Group, LLC. The principal  
 27 balance on Sherwood 2600 is \$780,000.00. No note or security guarantee has issued for that  
 28 property either.

1       144. Two additional Fund properties are at high risk of conversion, putting the Fund at  
 2 risk of another \$376,600.00 in losses: (1) a property denoted “Mobile 1015” is 97 days in arrears  
 3 and has a principal balance of \$356,600.00; and (2) a property denoted “Cedar 419” is 335 days in  
 4 arrears and has a principal balance of \$20,000. As was the case with Herbert 6604 and Sherwood  
 5 2600, Noble has refused to issue a new note for Cedar 419, even though it has indicated it is  
 6 pursuing collection and foreclosure proceedings.

7       145. In addition, since May 20, 2019, Noble Capital has not forwarded to the Fund any  
 8 of the principal or interest payments that it has collected from borrowers in the Fund’s loan  
 9 portfolio, nor has it provided the Fund monthly reports on the status of the Fund’s loan portfolio.  
 10 Prior to May 20, 2019, Noble Capital forwarded these interest payments on a weekly basis, and  
 11 total interest payments were approximately \$250,000 per month. These interest payments  
 12 constitute the Fund’s only income stream. Without monthly reporting, it is impossible to ascertain  
 13 how much in interest Noble Capital has wrongfully withheld. With respect to principal payments,  
 14 the following loans have recently matured or will mature by September 1, 2019:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
Bayou 3406	June 1, 2019	\$133,000
Berryhill 2672	June 1, 2019	\$28,000
Royalton 6441	July 1, 2019	\$801,000
Colquitt 1815	Aug. 1, 2019	\$769,000
Fraser 5703	Aug. 1, 2019	\$74,000
Hall 3911 1-Aug-19	Aug. 1, 2019	\$2,591,000
Laird 1503	Aug. 1, 2019	\$660,000
E 18th	Sept. 1, 2019	\$197,000
Maravilla 109	Sept. 1, 2019	\$287,000
Maravilla 129	Sept. 1, 2019	\$303,000
Old Bruceville	Sept. 1, 2019	\$273,000

27 **VII. Defendants Refuse to Allow the Fund to Access the Information**  
 28 **Necessary to Conduct Its Annual Audit**

1       146. The Fund is obligated pursuant to the terms of its Private Placement Offering of  
 2 Limited Partnership Interests to conduct an annual audit of its financials and furnish that audit to  
 3 the Fund's limited partners within 120 days of the end of the Fund's fiscal year, which is the  
 4 calendar year. Noble Capital has a copy of the LPA in its possession and understands the Fund's  
 5 obligations to limited partners.

6       147. Section 11.1 of the LPA obligates the Fund to have its annual financials "audited  
 7 by an independent accountant selected by the General Partner which is registered with, and subject  
 8 to examination by, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board." Pursuant to that audit, a  
 9 limited partner's share of profits may be subject to adjustment.

10      148. The General Partner has selected Michael Coglianese, CPA, P.C. (the "Fund's  
 11 auditor") as the Fund's independent auditor. The Fund obtained an unqualified audit from its  
 12 auditor for fiscal year 2017.

13      149. Noble Capital Fund Management is responsible for providing documentation in  
 14 support of the audit per section 4(b) of the MASA, which states: "The Company [*i.e.* Noble  
 15 Capital Fund Management] ***shall at all times cooperate with the Fund*** and the General Partner  
 16 and ***keep the General Partner fully informed*** with regard to the services provided by the  
 17 Company and its affiliates under this Agreement." (Emphasis added.) Noble Capital performed  
 18 this obligation in conjunction with the Fund's fiscal year 2017 audit.

19      150. On April 17, 2019 as part of its audit of the 2018 fiscal year performance, an  
 20 employee of the Fund's auditor, Bob Strong, requested that Noble Capital Fund Management  
 21 provide documentation to support the \$20,871,600.00 "carrying value" of the Fund's capital  
 22 allocated to the real estate loans that Noble Capital recommended. Only Noble Capital can verify  
 23 that information because, as the entity that created those documents, it is the only entity with  
 24 custody over that information in the first instance. In addition, the real estate loans in question  
 25 represent more than 85% of the net assets of the Fund.

26      151. Noble Capital acknowledged receipt of the auditor's request on April 17, 2019 and  
 27 stated that Defendant Collins would look into it immediately.

28

1 152. On April 30, 2019, having received nothing, the auditor renewed his request for  
 2 documentation to verify the existence of more than 85% of the Fund's assets.

3 153. A Noble Capital employee responded on April 30, 2019 and promised to make the  
 4 requested documents available by "Friday" May 3, 2019.

5 154. Noble Capital did not provide any documents on May 3, 2019.

6 155. On May 6, 2019, Noble Capital delayed further, stating that the documents were  
 7 90% ready, but that Defendant Ragland needed to verify them.

8 156. Having neither received documents nor heard from Noble Capital, the auditor made  
 9 a final request for documents on May 17, 2019, stating: "We have heard various time frames, of  
 10 which have come and gone. We would like to wrap this audit up this coming week. Please let us  
 11 know when you will provide."

12 157. Noble Capital did not respond to this request either.

13 158. On May 31, 2019, the auditor issued a Draft Independent Auditor's Report (the  
 14 "Draft Audit Report"). The Draft Audit Report contained a "Disclaimer of Opinion," which  
 15 means that the auditors do not have sufficient audit evidence on which to base an opinion and that  
 16 the effect of any undetected financial misstatements would be material and pervasive. In this case,  
 17 the auditor's stated basis for the disclaimer was that he was "unable to obtain sufficient  
 18 appropriate evidence" from Noble Capital to "support the fair value" of the Fund's assets that are  
 19 allocated to real estate loans through Noble Capital.

20 159. As a result of the auditor's inability to deliver an opinion on the Fund's 2018  
 21 financials, the Fund cannot verify its financials, and is effectively frozen: it is unable to issue  
 22 distributions or redemptions to limited partners because it cannot verify its assets; it is unable to  
 23 provide audited financials to the Fund's partners as it is required to; it has been forced to restate its  
 24 financials for 2018 to recognize greater losses than it had initially calculated; it has been forced to  
 25 reissue Schedule K-1 tax documents showing unanticipated losses, which will require investors to  
 26 redo their 2018 taxes; it has suffered other reputational harms due to the issuance of the opinion  
 27 itself; and it would be unable to access capital if needed, since without audited financial statements  
 28 it could not issue securities or borrow money from lenders.

160. The auditor's disclaimer of opinion can only be cured by obtaining access to information that is in the exclusive custody of Noble Capital. Noble Capital has no valid basis for denying access to that information, which the MASA requires it to provide.

## **VIII. Defendants Liquidate the Fund**

161. In an effort to further evade and avoid the disclosure of its financial miss-dealings and harm the Fund, Noble Capital, acting through the direction and efforts of the individual Defendants, unilaterally liquidated the Fund's assets. This was done literally on the eve of an arbitration proceeding whereby the Fund sought to obtain injunctive relief compelling Noble to provide its relevant financial information.

162. Specifically, on September 19, 2019, Noble Capital without any authority, right,  
163 notice to, or consent of the Fund, and in direct violation of the LPA and MASA, unilaterally  
164 directed and caused third-party Fund administrators to transfer the assets within the Fund's  
165 accounts to other accounts solely related to and controlled by Noble Capital. These accounts are  
166 believed to have been created by Noble as a means to compete with the Fund. Accordingly, Noble  
167 Capital intentionally caused the divestment of over \$26 million dollars of Fund assets (including  
168 over \$2 million in interest income that was retained by Defendants and never paid or credited to  
169 any investors in the Fund), and rendered the Fund essentially asset-less.

18        163. These facts were presented to the Arbitration Panel wherein the Fund sought  
19 injunctive relief. As a result, the Panel issued a Partial Final Award which concluded “the Panel  
20 finds that the recent liquidation of the Fund by Noble Capital establishes that the Fund will likely  
21 prevail at trial on its Breach of Contract and Conversion causes of action.”

## COUNT ONE

## Civil Violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act

(18 U.S.C. § 1962(c))

**(Against All Defendants)**

164. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 163 of this  
Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

1 165. Each Defendant is a “person” within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961(3) and  
2 1964(c).

3 166. Defendants Newman, Ragland, Navarro, and Collins, consisting of individuals,  
4 formed an association-in-fact, whose joint and common purpose was to generate profits by  
5 defrauding the Fund out of Fund assets. All Individual Defendants received misappropriated Fund  
6 funds at various points throughout the period from January 2017 to the present, including but not  
7 limited to those referenced in paragraphs 32, 47, 58, 60-62, 66, 71, 72 and 162.

8 167. The Individual Defendants exercised control over the enterprise Noble Capital and  
9 the numerous related entities that this enterprise consists of. Plaintiff is informed and believes that  
10 all Individual Defendants ultimately controlled and managed the operations of the entire  
11 association-in-fact and often personally directed the day-to-day operations of the multiple business  
12 entities referenced above.

13 168. This association-in-fact is an “enterprise” within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. §§  
14 1961(4) and 1962(c). The enterprise was at all times engaged in interstate commerce and its  
15 activities affected and continue to affect interstate commerce. The interstate nexus includes but is  
16 not limited to the transfer of funds to multiple persons and entities in Texas, California, and  
17 elsewhere.

18 169. The Individual Defendants and DOES 1-50 were each associated with the  
19 association-in-fact enterprise and conducted or participated, directly or indirectly, in the conduct  
20 of the affairs of this enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity within the meaning of 18  
21 U.S.C. §§ 1961(l)(B), 1961(5) and 1962(c).

22 170. The Individual Defendants formed a scheme to defraud the Fund of its assets  
23 whereby they induced the Fund to fund loans managed by the Individual Defendants that posed an  
24 unacceptably high risk of default for personal gain and to conceal enterprise losses from other  
25 related entities. The Individual Defendants knew that the borrowers for these loans had gone  
26 through recent foreclosures or were already in default, but they assured the Fund that these were  
27 recommend borrowers with clean background reports that had been properly reviewed. The  
28 Individual Defendants then engaged in numerous acts designed to conceal or prolong their fraud,

1 including entering into the MOUs, and converting the Fund's tangible and intangible assets for  
 2 their own benefit without the Fund's consent.

3       171. In furtherance of this scheme, the Individual Defendants used or caused to be used  
 4 interstate wire communications in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343. The Individual Defendants  
 5 initiated and received multiple transfers of Fund and loan borrower funds across state lines via the  
 6 use of wires including but not limited to the transfers referenced in paragraphs 32, 47, 58, 71, 72  
 7 and 162. The Individual Defendants and others also communicated materially false statements  
 8 and deceitfully omitted material facts to the Fund via the use of wires including but not limited to  
 9 the communications and omissions referenced in paragraphs 60-64. Each of these wire  
 10 communications, omissions, and transfers of Fund assets to other entities rather than for the  
 11 benefit of the Fund satisfies the transmission "by means of wire, radio, or television  
 12 communication" element for wire fraud.

13       172. In furtherance of this scheme to defraud, the Individual Defendants used or caused  
 14 to be used the United States mails or an interstate commercial carrier in violation of 18 U.S.C.  
 15 § 1341. The Individual Defendants initiated and received multiple transfers of Fund funds across  
 16 state lines via the use of the mails, including but not limited to the transfers referenced in  
 17 paragraphs 32, 47, 58, 71, 72 and 162. Each of these transfers of Fund assets to out-of-state  
 18 entities rather than for the benefit of the Company satisfies the "use of the mail" element for mail  
 19 fraud.

20       173. In furtherance of this scheme to defraud the Fund of its money or property having a  
 21 value of \$5,000 or more, the Individual Defendants initiated and received multiple transfers that  
 22 caused Fund funds to travel or be transported in interstate commerce in violation of 18 U.S.C  
 23 §§ 2314 and 2315, including but not limited to the transfers referenced in paragraphs 32, 47, 58,  
 24 71, 72 and 162.

25       174. By reason of the Individual Defendants' violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c), the Fund  
 26 suffered injury in an amount to be determined at trial.

27       175. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c), the Fund is entitled to treble damages.

28

176. In bringing this action, the Fund has and will incur attorneys' fees and is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c).

177. The Fund additionally seeks the return/restitution of any assets from Noble Capital entities or subsidiary corporations or other alter ego entities controlled by the Individual Defendants that received misappropriated Fund funds, including those that were dissolved and had their assets disbursed to the Individual Defendants and/or the corporations they control.

## **COUNT TWO**

## Civil Violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act

(18 U.S.C. § 1962(d))

**(Against All Defendants)**

178. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 177 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

179. The Individual Defendants each conspired with one another within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d) to violate § 1962(c); that is, to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of the enterprise's affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961(1)(B) and 1961(5) and 1962(c), as identified more fully in paragraphs 164 to 177 above.

180. By reason of the violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d) committed by the Individual Defendants, the Fund suffered injury in an amount to be proven at trial, within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c).

181. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c), Plaintiff is entitled to treble damages.

182. In bringing this action, Plaintiff has and will incur attorneys' fees and is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c).

## **COUNT THREE**

## Fraud

## (Against the Individual Defendants and Noble Capital Fund Management)

183. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 182 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

1       184. As detailed above, the Individual Defendants and Noble Capital Fund Management  
 2 made repeated false and fraudulent misrepresentations and omissions to Plaintiff regarding: (1)  
 3 their investigation of the “credentials” of borrowers and of borrowers’ histories of foreclosures  
 4 and defaults; (2) the recommendation to fund a loan to FDI Divine Property Group; (3) the  
 5 representation that all background reports for the FDI loan “came back clean”; (4) the  
 6 recommendation to fund a loan to Northshore Homes; (5) the representation that all background  
 7 reports for the Northshore Home loan “came back clean”; (6) the recommendation to fund a loan  
 8 to Loved Homes of Austin; (7) the representation that all background reports for the Loved Homes  
 9 loan “came back clean”.

10       185. These representations were false. In fact: (1) Defendants had not properly looked  
 11 into or reported on borrower credentials; (2) FDI was not an appropriate borrower to recommend  
 12 because FDI’s owner had a long history of foreclosure, including one three months before Noble  
 13 Capital issued this loan; (3) Defendants had months of experience with the FDI borrowers and  
 14 knew they were likely to default; (4) Northshore Homes was not an appropriate borrower to  
 15 recommend because it had as many as seventeen prior foreclosures and eighteen judgments on its  
 16 record; (5) Defendants had months of experience with the Northshore Homes borrowers and knew  
 17 they were likely to default; (6) Loved Homes was not an appropriate borrower to recommend  
 18 because Noble Capital had already caused a notice of default to be issued against that entity, and it  
 19 knew that Loved Homes was likely to default.

20       186. The false statements were made by Noble Capital Fund Management in documents  
 21 signed by Defendants Ragland and Collins, based on loans that were vetted by Defendant Navarro  
 22 and the overarching scheme devised by all four Individual Defendants.

23       187. When Defendants made these representations and omissions, they knew that they  
 24 were false. These representations and omissions were made with the intent to defraud and  
 25 deceive. Moreover, at the time Defendants made these promises to the Fund, Defendants  
 26 understood that the loans were likely to default.

27       188. At the time Defendants made these representations and omissions, Plaintiff was  
 28 unaware of their falsity and believed them to be true. Plaintiff relied upon these

1 misrepresentations and omissions and would not have agreed to fund the proposed loans if it had  
2 known the truth.

3 189. Plaintiff's reliance on Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions was  
4 justifiable.

5 190. As a result of Defendants' fraudulent misrepresentations and omissions, Plaintiff  
6 has been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial.

7       191. In doing the acts alleged herein, Defendants acted with oppression, fraud, and  
8 malice, and Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages.

## **COUNT FOUR**

## False Advertising

(15 U.S.C. § 1125)

**(Against the Individual Defendants, Noble Capital Group, Noble Capital Fund Management Income Fund II, and Income Fund III)**

192. The Fund hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 191 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

193. Defendants have used false and misleading statements of fact in their commercial advertisements and promotions, both on behalf of the Fund and also in order to divert investment money away from the Fund and into Defendants' other funds, including Income Fund II and Income Fund III.

194. Defendants' false and misleading statements are attributed either to the individual Defendants directly, as described in the substantive allegations above, or more generally to Noble Capital or Noble without specific attribution. Noble Capital Group and Noble Capital Fund Management are the primary entities who use those statements to funnel investors into Noble-controlled funds like Income Fund II and Income Fund III.

195. Specifically, Defendants have used the names “US Capital / Noble Capital Texas Real Estate Income Fund, LP,” “Signature Fund” and/or “Fund” in order to attract investors to the Fund, but Defendants then divert the investors’ money to their other funds. Defendants have likewise used the Fund’s Private Placement Memorandum and unique CUSIP number in

1 misleading advertisements and promotions, in order to attract investors to the Fund and divert  
2 investment money into Defendants' other funds.

3       196. The name “Signature Fund” was never approved by the Fund to advertise the Fund.  
4 Defendants’ purpose for advertising the Fund under the name “Signature Fund” is to confuse  
5 investors as to the identity and/or attributes of the Fund, for their own profit.

6        197. Defendants have also made false or misleading statements of fact regarding the  
7 nature, characteristics and qualities of the Fund in their advertisements and promotions,  
8 misrepresenting the amount of the Fund's annual return and giving the misleading impression that  
9 the Fund's returns are guaranteed and without risk.

10        198. Defendants' false designations of origin and false and misleading statements are  
11 likely to cause confusion, mistake or deception among members of the public, and have deceived  
12 investors in the Fund and in Defendants' other funds in material ways.

13        199. Defendants make their false and misleading statements in various press releases,  
14 online interviews, websites, YouTube and other online videos, blogs, podcasts and an online radio  
15 show, all of which are in interstate commerce.

16        200. Defendants' false and misleading statements have caused or are likely to cause  
17 competitive or commercial injury to the Fund, in that the Fund has lost investment money that  
18 Defendants diverted to their other funds, and the Fund's reputation has been harmed by  
19 Defendants' false and fraudulent promises of guaranteed returns without risk.

## COUNT FIVE

## Unfair Competition

(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq. and 17500 et seq.)

**(Against the Individual Defendants, Noble Capital Group, Noble Capital Fund Management Income Fund II, and Income Fund III)**

201. The Fund hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 200 of this  
25 Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

202. Defendants have engaged in unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business acts or  
27 practices within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*, and

1 have engaged in unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising and other acts prohibited by  
2 California Business and Professions Code §§ 17500-17577.5.

3       203. Defendants have used false and misleading statements of fact in their commercial  
4 advertisements and promotions, both on behalf of the Fund and also in order to divert investment  
5 money away from the Fund and into Defendants' other funds. Defendants' false and misleading  
6 statements are attributed either to the individual Defendants directly, as described in the  
7 substantive allegations, or more generally to Noble Capital or Noble, without specific attribution  
8 to a particular Noble Capital entity.

9       204. Specifically, Defendants have used the names "US Capital / Noble Capital Texas  
10 Real Estate Income Fund, LP," "Signature Fund" and/or "Fund" in order to attract investors to the  
11 Fund, but Defendants then divert the investors' money to their other funds. Defendants have  
12 likewise used the Fund's unique CUSIP number in misleading advertisements and promotions to  
13 attract investors to the Fund and divert investment money into Defendants' other funds.

14       205. Defendants have also made false or misleading statements of fact regarding the  
15 nature, characteristics and qualities of the Fund in their advertisements and promotions,  
16 misrepresenting the amount of the Fund's annual return and giving the misleading impression that  
17 the Fund's returns are guaranteed and without risk.

18       206. Defendants' false designations of origin and misleading statements are likely to  
19 cause confusion, mistake or deception among members of the public, and have deceived investors  
20 in the Fund and in Defendants' other funds in material ways.

21       207. Defendants' false and misleading statements have caused or are likely to cause  
22 substantial harm to the Fund, in that the Fund has lost investment money that Defendants diverted  
23 to their other funds, and the Fund's reputation has been harmed by Defendants' false and  
24 fraudulent promises of guaranteed returns without risk.

25

26

27

28

## **COUNT SIX**

## **Breach of Contract – The MASA**

## **(Against Noble Capital Fund Management)**

4       208. The Fund hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 207 of this  
5 Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

6 209. On January 18, 2017, the Fund and various Noble Capital entities acting at the  
7 direction of the Individual Defendants and through the signatory Noble Capital Fund Management  
8 executed the MASA, which was signed on behalf of the Noble Capital entities by Defendant  
9 Collins, and on behalf of the Fund by the CEO of US Capital, Jeffrey Sweeney.

210. At all relevant times, the Fund has performed its obligations under the MASA.

11        211. The MASA requires Noble Capital Fund Management to “[c]onduct due diligence  
12 on prospective borrowers and investment opportunities in compliance with the credit criteria and  
13 underwriting guidelines specified in the Private Placement Memorandum.” Noble Capital Fund  
14 Management breached this provision of the MASA by its failure to properly diligence borrowers.  
15 As a result of this failure, these defendants caused the Fund to lend to a number of high-risk  
16 borrowers, many of whom defaulted on their loans almost immediately after being granted them.  
17 This damaged the Fund.

18        212. The MASA further requires Noble Capital to “[s]tructure, securitize, document, and  
19 execute transactions based on due diligence findings,” to generate profits for the Fund. Noble  
20 Capital Fund Management breached this provision of the MASA by executing transactions that  
21 were not based on appropriate diligence findings, and that posed an unacceptable risk of default.  
22 These transactions were executed so that Defendants could profit from loan origination and  
23 servicing fees, and not for the purpose of generating profits for the Fund.

24        213. The MASA also required Noble Capital Fund Management to “[r]epossess,  
25 restructure, or otherwise remedy properties or borrowers in events of default to preserve  
26 principal.” Noble Capital Fund Management breached this provision of the MASA by failing to  
27 properly remedy defaults pursuant to the terms of the MOU executed between Noble Capital  
28 Properties and the Fund. Specifically, Noble Capital Fund Management failed to cause an

appropriate Noble Capital entity to issue the required notes, security and cross-corporate guarantees, and interest payments called for in the MOUs.

3       214. The MASA also requires Noble Capital Fund Management to cause other Noble  
4       Capital entities to “[m]anage the portfolio of investments in respect to collateral monitoring, cash  
5       management, and any other activities,” as requested by the Fund, through its General Partner.  
6  
5       Noble Capital Fund Management breached this provision of the MASA by failing to transmit  
6       principal and interest payments to the Fund on properties in the Fund’s loan portfolio, as described  
7  
8       in paragraph 144.

9        215. Finally, section 4(b) of the MASA mandated that Noble Capital Fund Management  
10      “shall at all times cooperate with the Fund and the General Partner and keep the General Partner  
11      fully informed with regard to the services provided by the Company and its affiliates under this  
12      Agreement.” Noble Capital Fund Management breached this provision of the MASA, as  
13      described more fully above in paragraphs 145 through 163 by failing to allow the Fund’s auditors  
14      access to the information they requested as part of their annual audit and by liquidating the Fund  
15      and taking over \$26,000,000, over \$2,000,000 of which has not been provided to Investors. As a  
16      result of Noble Capital Fund Management’s breach, the Fund has essentially no assets. Noble  
17      Capital also breached this provision of the MASA by ceasing its monthly reporting on the Fund’s  
18      loan portfolio, as described above in paragraph 144, and ultimately by divesting and converting  
19      for its own use all of the Fund’s assets.

20 216. As a result of Noble Capital Fund Management's breaches of the MASA, the Fund  
has been damaged due to loss of assets and property in an amount which will be proven at trial.

## COUNT SEVEN

## Breach of Contract – The MOU

## **(Against Noble Capital Properties)**

25        217. The Fund hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 216 of this  
26 Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

27        218. The Fund and various Noble Capital entities acting at the direction of the Individual  
28 Defendants and through the signatory Noble Capital Properties, executed a MOU with the Fund on

1 June 30, 2018. The MOU was signed by Jeffrey Sweeney on behalf of the Fund and Defendant  
2 Collins on behalf of Noble Capital Properties.

3 219. At all relevant times, the Fund has performed all of its obligations under the  
4 MOUs.

5       220. Pursuant to the June 30, 2018 MOU, Noble Capital Properties promised that it  
6 would finalize and issue new notes for the MOU properties by September 1, 2018. Noble Capital  
7 Properties breached this provision of the MOU by failing to issue new notes for any of the MOU  
8 properties at any time, despite the Fund's repeated requests.

9        221. The June 30, 2018 MOU further required Noble Capital Properties to issue a cross  
10 corporate guarantee and security agreement in favor of the Fund by September 1, 2018. Noble  
11 Capital Properties breached this provision of the MOU by failing to do so at any time.

12        222. Noble Capital Properties has further breached the June 30, 2018 MOU by failing to  
13 pay \$41,337.29 in interest that is called for pursuant to the contract, and is past due.

14 223. As a result of Noble Capital Properties' breach, the Fund has been damaged due to  
15 loss of assets and property in an amount which will be proven at trial.

## COUNT EIGHT

## Conversion

## (Against Noble Capital Properties, Noble Capital Fund Management, and Noble Capital Servicing)

19       224. The Fund hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 223 of this  
20 Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

21       225. Noble Capital Properties substantially interfered with the Fund's property interest  
22 in Northwood 6004, W 29th 1406, and Wigton 5026 by failing to issue new notes or a cross  
23 corporate guarantee for those properties, and by transferring them to another Noble entity without  
24 the Fund's consent, for their own use and benefit.

226. Noble Capital Properties also substantially interfered with the Fund's property  
227 interest in Sherwood 2600 and Herbert 6604 by foreclosing on those properties and transferring  
them to a Noble entity for their own use and benefit without the Fund's consent.

1       227. Noble Capital Fund Management and Noble Capital Servicing also have  
2 substantially interfered with the Fund's interest in weekly servicing payments of the principal and  
3 interest collected on the Fund's entire loan portfolio since May 20, 2019, as described further in  
4 paragraph 144.

5 228. As a direct and proximate result of Noble Capital Properties, Noble Capital Fund  
6 Management, and Noble Capital Servicing's conversion of the Fund's assets, the Fund has  
7 incurred damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

8       229. In engaging in the foregoing conduct, Noble Capital Properties, Noble Capital Fund  
9 Management, and Noble Capital Servicing acted with malice, oppression and fraud, warranting an  
10 award of punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

11        230. By reason of the unlawful conversion of the Fund's property, the Fund is entitled to  
12 recover the value of the property at the time of the conversion, with interest, and a fair  
13 compensation for the time and money properly expended to recover the property pursuant to  
14 California Civil Code § 3336, in an amount to be proven at trial.

15        231. The Fund additionally seeks the return/restitution of any assets from alter ego  
16 corporations that received converted Fund assets, including those that were dissolved and had their  
17 assets disbursed to Defendants and/or other corporations they control.

## COUNT NINE

## Conversion

**(Against All Defendants)**

21        232. The Fund hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 231 of this  
22 Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

23        233. The Defendants substantially interfered with the Fund's property interests in all of  
24 the assets within the Fund when they unilaterally orchestrated and caused the transfer of those  
25 assets from the Fund to investment vehicles solely owned and controlled by the Defendants and  
26 retained on \$2,000,000 which it did not forward to Investors.

27        234. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conversion of the Fund assets,  
28 the Fund has incurred damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

235. In engaging in the foregoing conduct the Defendants acted with malice, oppression and fraud, warranting an award of punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial

236. By reason of the unlawful conversion of the Fund's property, the Fund is entitled to recover the values of the property at the time of the conversion, with interest, and a fair compensation for the time and money properly expensed to recover the property pursuant to California Civil Code § 3336, in an amount to be proven at trial.

237. The Fund additionally seeks the return/restitution of any assets from alter ego corporations that received converted Fund assets, including those that were dissolved and had their assets disbursed to Defendants and/or other corporations they control.

## **COUNT TEN**

## Unjust Enrichment

**(Against All Defendants)**

238. The Fund hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 237 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

239. As a result of their wrongful conduct, Defendants have been unjustly enriched at the expense of the Fund and its investors, in the form of unjustified benefits, payments, and transfers of Fund assets including, but not limited to:

- (a) freeriding on the Fund's name, CUSIP, goodwill, and reputation;
- (b) collecting principal and interest payments on behalf of the Fund and failing to remit those monies to the Fund;
- (c) profit derived from the improper diversion of Fund investors into Noble-controlled investment vehicles;
- (d) converting Fund property interests relating to Northwood 6004, W 29th 1406, Wigton 5026, Sherwood 2600, and Herbert 6604 to their own benefit;
- (e) offloading bad loans onto the Fund and thereby minimizing their own losses; and collecting origination, servicing, REO, workout fees, tax benefits, and other benefits from originating bad loans
- (f) taking over \$\$26,000,00 in assets including over \$2,000,000 in interest funds and not paying such interest amounts to Investors.

240. As a result of these unjustified payments and transfers of Fund assets, Defendant are thereby required to make restitution.

241. Accordingly, the Fund is entitled to disgorgement by Defendants of all monies assets and benefits obtained directly or indirectly through their wrongful conduct as alleged herein.

## **COUNT ELEVEN**

## Intentional Interference with Contractual Relations

## (Against Noble Capital Fund Management and Noble Capital Servicing

242. The Fund hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 241 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

243. The Fund has valid contractual obligations to its limited partner investors by virtue of the LPA and the PPM.

244. Noble Capital is aware of the terms of both the LPA and the PPM, and has been provided a copy of both agreements.

245. Noble Capital has denied the Fund access to necessary audit documents, has ceased forwarding principal and interest payments to the Fund, ceased providing the Fund with monthly reporting on its loan portfolio and liquidated essentially all of the Fund's assets exceeding \$26,000,000.

246. These actions were designed to disrupt or induce the breach of, and in fact have disrupted and induce the breach of, the Fund's contractual relationship with its limited partner investors by (1) putting the Fund into breach of the LPA and PPM's audit provisions, (2) rendering the Fund inoperable, and thus, unable to perform other duties under the LPA and PPM, including issuing disbursements or redemptions, and (3) have harmed the Fund's reputation. These acts have damaged the Fund's contractual relationships in an amount to be proven at trial.

## **COUNT TWELVE**

## Accounting

## (Against Noble Capital Fund Management)

247. The Fund hereby incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 246 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein and alleges the following cause of action.

1       248. The Fund's relationship to Noble Capital Fund Management is governed by the  
2 MASA. The MASA requires Noble Capital Fund Management to keep the Fund "fully informed"  
3 about its underlying loan portfolio.

4       249. Noble Capital Fund Management has committed various breaches of contract, as  
5 well as tortious and fraudulent acts, described more fully in Counts One through Ten. These acts  
6 have damaged the Fund and unlawfully enriched Noble Capital.

7       250. The Fund cannot determine the amount it is owed without an accounting, however,  
8 because Noble Capital Fund Management has exclusive custody over the books, records, and  
9 accounts that show how much money was collected and whom from. Accordingly, the Fund is  
10 entitled to an accounting.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

1. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests judgment as follows:

- a. That Defendants, and all other persons acting in active concert or privately or in participation with Defendants, be temporarily, preliminarily, and permanently enjoined from the wrongful acts and conduct set forth above;
- b. That Plaintiff receive such other injunctive relief as it may request and the Court may deem just and proper;
- c. That Defendants be required to account for all gains, profits, and advantages derived from their acts of conversion and other violations of law;
- d. That all gains, profits and advantages derived by Defendants from acts of conversion and other violations of law be deemed to be in constructive trust for the benefit of Plaintiff;
- e. For an order requiring Defendants to disgorge profits earned from their unlawful conduct;
- f. For an award of restitution, unjust enrichment, actual damages, statutory damages, and compensatory damages according to proof at trial;
- g. For punitive and exemplary damages according to proof at trial;
- h. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code § 17203 and the equitable powers of this Court, that Defendants be ordered to restore to Plaintiff all funds acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be unlawful or fraudulent or to constitute unfair competition under Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*;
- i. For a finding that all of the Noble Capital entities are alter egos of Defendants Newman, Ragland, Navarro, and Collins;
- j. That this Court order that, as the alter ego of the Noble Capital entities, Newman, Ragland, Navarro, and Collins are individually liable for Defendants' failure to fulfill their statutory, contractual, and common law obligations to the Fund, as set forth herein;

- k. That this Court order Defendants to provide access to all documents that the Fund’s independent auditor needs to complete its audit;
- l. That, pursuant to this Court’s equity powers, a constructive trust be imposed in favor of the Fund over all assets controlled by Defendants Newman, Ragland, Navarro, Collins, and Noble Capital that stem from the Fund, to avoid the unjust enrichment that would occur if these Defendants were able to avoid paying any monetary award granted to the Fund by moving monies owed to the Fund among the many entities that the Individual Defendants control;
- m. For all statutory damages and penalties;
- n. For the return/restitution of any assets from Noble Capital entities that received misappropriated Fund funds, including those that were dissolved and had their assets disbursed to other Noble Capital entities or to the Individual Defendants;
- o. For attorneys’ fees, costs of suit, and prejudgment and post judgment interest, as provided under applicable law; and
- p. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

## **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

The Fund demands trial by jury on all claims and issues so triable.

DATED: February 10, 2021 JEFFER MANGELS BUTLER & MITCHELL LLP

By: /s/ James Neudecker  
JAMES NEUDECKER  
Attorneys for Plaintiff